

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph found on page 1, at lines 5-9, to read as follows:

Elastic tapes are often employed in the field of medicine for immobilizing and stiffening. In accordance with German Patent DE 197 24 441 C2 (equivalent to US Patent 6,015,379, incorporated herein by reference), for example, a stiffening tape is used for improving cohabitation capability. However, the stiffening possibilities described therein entail considerable costs in production.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1-2 to read as follows:

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section through a portion of the elastic tape according to the invention. The embodiment of the invention in accordance with Figure 1 shows an elastic tape comprised of a denser structure (2) and a more open structure (1). The stiffening strip (3) is seated on the open surface (1), and its extensions (4) have penetrated the loose portion (1) of the elastic tape and solidly adhere to it.

Please amend the paragraph found on page 2, at lines 5-13, to read as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, a homogenous mass, preferably an adhesive, is applied in beads transversely to the longitudinal direction of the tape which, when applied, makes a solid connection with the tape, and then obtains its required solidity by means of a curing process. Further in accordance with the present invention,

this can be an adhesive which cures in a period of time sufficient for production and which is well tolerated when in contact with the human skin. The adhesive may, further, be a so-called 2-component adhesive, may cure through the action of UV radiation, or may cure by means of a temperature change. One of skill in the art may glean further advantages and characteristics of the invention from the drawings and the associated description given above.

Please enter the following paragraphs at line 14 of page 2:

One embodiment of the present invention is a longitudinally elastic tape having a transverse stiffening strip (3) which does not essentially hamper elasticity. The transverse stiffening strip (3) consists of a homogenous material which forms a solid connection with the surface (1) of the elastic tape, which and has been applied as a liquid in the form of beads. The elastic property of the tape is still sufficiently preserved.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a longitudinally elastic tape as described above, where the homogenous material of the stiffening strip (3) consists of an adhesive, which is applied in liquid form. In the process, the liquid adhesive makes a firm connection with the elastic tape, either by adhering to the surface, or by penetrating at least one extension (4) into the loose surface structure (1) of the elastic tape. The liquid adhesive thereafter obtains the required solid properties by curing.